

Working for Eastern Washington

Project Highlights

- FY 2003 -

This section includes Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, and Stevens Counties

(For Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, Walla Walla, and Whitman Counties, please see our South East Washington section at <http://murray.senate.gov/region-southeast>)

AGRICULTURE

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/agriculture>

Western Wheat Quality Lab (\$75,000 increase in FY 2003)

Senator Murray secured a \$75,000 increase in funding for the WWQL in Pullman. This facility conducts research to ensure that Washington's wheat farmers are producing a crop that is competitive in overseas markets, especially Asia. Wheat is Washington's number one agricultural export, bringing \$878 million into our state.

Protecting Washington State Tree Fruit from Viruses (\$250,000)

The NRSP-5 facility at Washington State University's Irrigated Agriculture and Extension Center in Prosser, Washington is responsible for obtaining and distributing virus-free deciduous tree fruit material to farmers. Rapid foreign and domestic exchange of varieties is essential for the continued economic vitality of the U.S. tree fruit and nursery industries. The facility will use the funding to implement new technologies for more rapid and dependable methods of pathogen detection and to provide secure production and maintenance of virus-free fruit tree cultivars.

Protecting and Enhancing Washington's Wine Industry (\$850,000)

Senator Murray secured funding to protect the Washington wine industry. The FY 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Act includes an \$850,000 increase for viticulture research in the Pacific Northwest. The increase includes \$150,000 to develop a clean "motherblock" for the Washington wine industry. As the industry grows, it needs a disease and virus-free "motherblock" of plant material. The industry has grown so rapidly that there are concerns that farmers are planting grapevine that may contain viruses that could devastate the industry. One of the strengths of our industry is that our rootstock is clean. The research dollars secured will help to build a new, clean rootstock for distribution to existing and new growers. The bill also includes \$400,000 for the Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research for viticulture research. \$200,000 will go directly for research at the center.

Organic Crop Research (\$125,000)

Organic crops are the fastest growing section of Washington's agricultural economy. The Washington State University Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources is developing a comprehensive organic farming research and education program to assist Washington State's organic producers. The Center will address project areas that are not covered by competitive grants, including: development of certified organic experimental land; organic seed protection and production technology; integrating nutrient management, water management, and pest control; organic weed control methods; and effect of production practices on food quality. The project will benefit consumers, the environment, and both organic and conventional farmers.

Working for Eastern Washington

Rural and Farmworker Housing Trust (\$180,000)

The housing trust will use the funding to kickstart its operations. The new organization will raise funding to create affordable housing for farmworkers in Washington state. RAFHT is the result of four years of work between Senator Murray, the Latino community, farmers, and affordable housing developers. Senator Murray has joined with leaders in these communities to address Washington State's tremendous need for safe and affordable farmworker housing. RAFHT's goal will be to raise the tens of millions of dollars needed to build new -- and rehabilitate existing -- farmworker housing throughout the state.

Animal Research (\$900,000)

This funding will support initiatives at WSU to make sure that livestock producers have disease-free animals and to conduct research on animal diseases to ensure that our agriculture industry is prepared for a possible future attack on the U.S. food supply.

Rural Technology (\$900,000)

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/telecom>

The Rural Technology Transfer Initiative to continue to help small landowners use up-to-date technology to maximize timber harvest while protecting important habitat.

TRANSPORTATION

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/transportation>

Spokane International Airport (\$11 million)

Spokane International Airport will receive \$4 million for improvements to taxiway "G" at the airport. Sen. Murray helped secure this critical funding as a conferee to the House-Senate conference in the fiscal year 2003. Sen. Murray also got \$7 million for the airport in FY 2002.

US 395, N. Spokane Corridor (Spokane) (\$10 million)

The North Spokane Corridor project will create a 10.4 mile link between I-90, US 2 and US 395. The project will help relieve congestion in the city, reduce emissions, save fuel and minimize accidents in the area. The project also includes pedestrian/bicycle trails, high-occupancy vehicle lanes and park and ride lots. (\$4 million in FY 2003, \$6 million in FY 2002)

Spokane Transit (\$3.5 million)

This funding will help provide an additional facility for paratransit vehicles that can't currently be housed in Spokane Transit's existing structures. (\$2.5 million in FY 2003, \$1 million in FY 2002)

Monroe Street Bridge Rehabilitation (Spokane) (\$3 million)

The funding will help renovate and repair the Monroe Street Bridge. The Bridge is currently unstable and fails to meet seismic requirements.

Working for Eastern Washington

I-182 / SR-240 Interchange Reconstruction (Spokane) (\$3 million)

The project will provide improvements on SR 240 adjacent to the widened Yakima River Bridge to ultimately allow use of all lanes on the bridge. Between Richland and the Yakima River Bridge, an overpass over I-82 will be widened and "on and off" ramps will be widened to the width of the modified bridge.

SECURITY

See also: http://murray.senate.gov/homeland_security and <http://murray.senate.gov/justice>

Spokane Combined Readiness Center (\$8.8 million)

These federal funds will enable Spokane to unify its first responders network, which consists of Spokane Fire and Police Departments, the City of Spokane Emergency Management Department and the WAARNG. Co-locating first responder training at this center will enhance the capabilities of each to prevent, educate, prepare and mitigate natural or man-made emergencies.

New Police Officers for Eastern Washington

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov>

Since 1993, Senator Murray's support of the COPS program has put more than 1,800 new police officers on Washington streets, including:

EASTERN REGION	191.9 *	\$18,727,604
Ferry County	11.2	\$721,473
Lincoln County	5.7	\$395,812
Pend Oreille County	6	\$519,643
Spokane County	151	\$14,948,072
Stevens County	18	\$2,142,604

* Note: Decimals reflect that some county police departments only requested a portion of a full-time officer's salary.

Senator Murray has championed the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program. She voted for the law that created it in 1993, and every year she has worked to fund this effort to put new police officers on the streets of these communities where they work closely with residents.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Transitions Women's Drop-In Center (Spokane) (\$225,000)

Transitions Women's Drop-In Center will use the funding to purchase a new building for the Women's Drop In Center. The Center provides critical services to more than 250 homeless and low-income women each month.

Working for Eastern Washington

RURAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/telecom>

High-Speed Internet Access to Rural Communities Act

Sen. Murray wrote and introduced the *Rural Telecommunications Act*. This legislation would provide grants to encourage community telecommunications planning in rural and underserved areas. If adopted, Congress would provide up to \$3 million a year in planning grants to help local and tribal governments, non-profits, public utilities, cooperatives and other public groups develop effective, targeted plans to bring high-speed internet access to their areas. It was passed in the Senate as part of the Farm Bill, but was dropped in Conference. Sen. Murray will continue to fight for it.

ENVIRONMENT

See also: <http://murray.senate.gov/environment>

Gonzaga's Inland Northwest Natural Resources Research Center (Spokane) (\$500,000)

The center will use these funds to focus on the development of natural resources while maintaining sound stewardship of the environment. This is the third year of funding for the Center that Senator Murray has secured through her seat on the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee bringing the total to \$3.2 million.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Rural Community Assessments (\$90,000)

The Washington State Rural Development Council will use the funding to help rural communities assess strengths and weaknesses, develop strategies to meet their economic, community, and human service goals, and link them to resources to build on and implement local plans. The Town of Quincy, Washington and the surrounding region recently went through the community assessment process. It was a huge success and this funding will help the council to reach out to many more rural communities.